Saber Marionette J™
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VIZ SELECT
story by
Satoru Akahori
art by
Yumisuke Kotoyoshi

セイバーマリオネットJ
SABER MARIONETTE 'J'

Saber Marionette J Vol. 4
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SABER MARIONETTE'J' Volume 4
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Saber Marionette J

Volume 4

Written by
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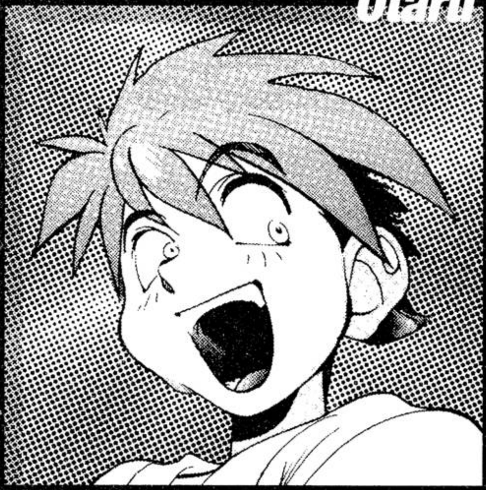
Otaru



Our hapless protagonist. He's just a normal red-blooded young man. He gets nosebleeds when he's aroused, and he bucks all of his planet's mores by having a strong attraction to Marionettes. However, he may be the only man capable of saving his homeland, Japoness.

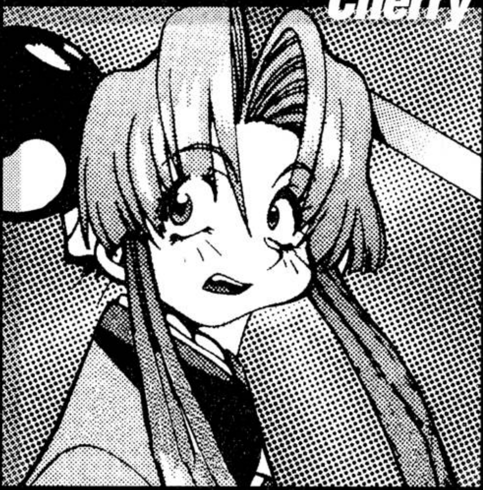
Lime

A sweet and innocent Saber Marionette who was activated by Otaru. She is bubbly and naïve, but she adores Otaru immensely. She is equipped with a Maiden Circuit that gives her complex human emotions. Although perky and cute, she is quite capable of kicking major ass.

Zoringen

A renegade of Gartland. After Lord Faust disowns the Saber Dolls, Zoringen eagerly takes them under his nefarious wing.

Cherry



A Saber Marionette also activated by Otaru. She behaves like a jealous middle sister, always vying for Otaru's attention. Like Lime, she possesses a Maiden Circuit. She has exceptional scanning abilities.

Lord Faust

The villainous dictator of Gartland, Lord Gerhart Von Faust is hell-bent on invading Japoness. Aiding his warmongering quest, are the vicious Saber Dolls—Panther, Lynx and Tiger.

Bloodberry

The third Saber Marionette activated by Otaru, and also the proud owner of a Maiden Circuit. She's the lustiest and most sexually aggressive of Otaru's Marionettes. She clearly sees herself as being wiser and more mature than Lime and Cherry.

The Booby Bunch

***Here's the story,
of a horny boy named Otaru,
who was bringing up three
very lovely girls.
All of them had Maiden Circuits
that emulated real women,
and they were as rare as pearls.***

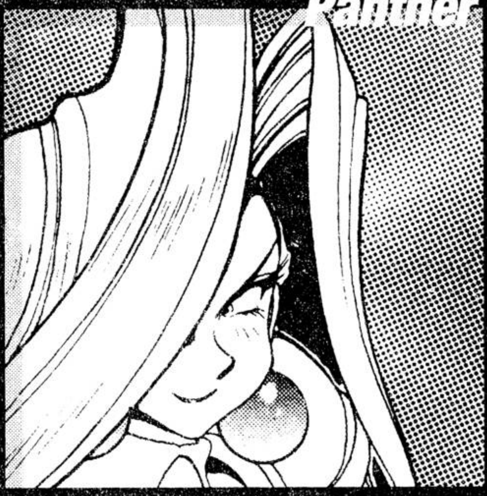
***Here's the story,
of a villain named Faust,
who was busy with three
special girls of his own.
They were mean and vicious killers,
doing evil biddings,
yet they felt all alone.***

***'Til the one day when Otaru
met this villain,
and someone threw the
very first punch.
And then these two warring
factions formed a melee,
and that's the way they all
became the Booby Bunch.
The Booby Bunch...
The Booby Bunch...
That's the way they
became the Booby Bunch!***

Tiger

Cruel and cunning, she'll stop at nothing to kill Otaru. She has feelings of love for her master, Lord Faust.

Panther



There's a lot of brawl behind this Doll. She's a vicious fighter.

Lynx

Like Cherry, she is equipped with excellent sensors.

Hanagata

Otaru's "friend." At every opportunity, he tries to woo and pursue Otaru romantically.

Saber Marionette J

The Story Thus Far:

Enter a wild world with no women, where the surviving men have created Marionettes--curvy androids in fleshy female forms. They were built to serve man's every desire--every desire outside of the bedroom, that is. Otaru Mamiya is your average full-blooded young man with a strange fetish--he has the hots for Marionettes. Unfortunately, falling in love with them is forbidden.

When Otaru accidentally awoke a special Marionette named Lime from stasis, Ieyasu--the Shogun of Japoness--saw an opportunity to resist the territorial ambitions of Faust, the despicable dictator of the neighboring country, Gartland. Ieyasu instructed Otaru to awaken two more unique Marionettes--Cherry and Bloodberry--and decreed that the three Marionettes were to live with Otaru. It is Ieyasu's belief that only Otaru can fully activate the Marionettes' special Maiden Circuits--the devices inside them that simulate the emotions and memories of real women. In short, they are machines...with souls!

After a successful pre-emptive strike against Lord Faust and his vicious Saber Dolls, Otaru, Lime, Cherry and Bloodberry returned to a hero's welcome in Japoness. The disgraced Saber Dolls were rescued from oblivion

by the mysterious Zoringen, who snuck them into Japoness on a mission to kill Otaru. Instead of taking lives, the Saber Dolls lost their memories...and have become members of Otaru's happily dysfunctional family despite Zoringen's attempts to get them back.

Oblivious of her old life of cruelty, the Saber Doll, Tiger, found happiness for the first time in Otaru's company, despite the recurring nightmare of a menacing voice beckoning her to return to her former master...Faust.

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Saber Marionette J

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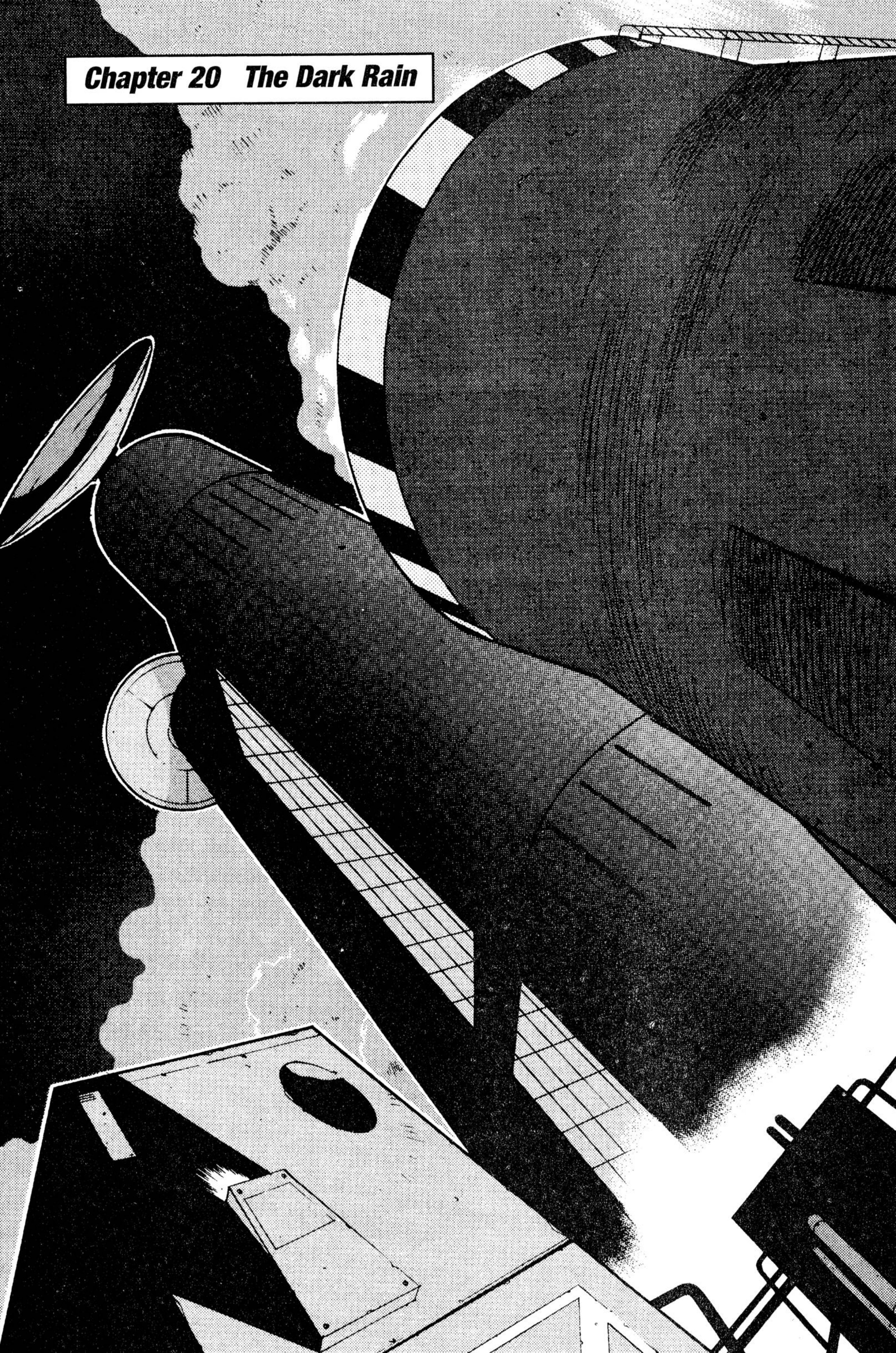
SIR, WE HAVE ZORINGEN.
BRING HIM IN.
UNHAND ME, YOU BRUTES!
WELL, WELL, WELL... ZORINGEN, I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU IN ONE PIECE! I'D HAVE THOUGHT THE SABER DOLLS WOULD HAVE TORN YOU APART BY NOW.
WHERE ARE THEY?
ARE THEY STILL IN JAPONESS? IF SO, THAT'S MOST INCONVENIENT... FOR YOU.
Chapter 20 The Dark Rain

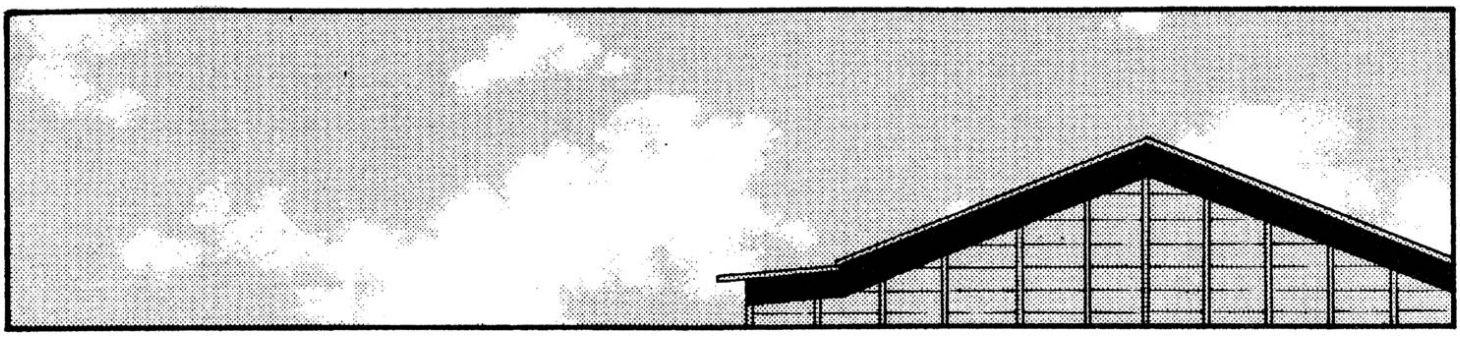
HUMPH! GOOD LUCK GETTING THEM BACK.
THEIR MEMORY CIRCUITS HAVE BEEN WIPED! THEY'RE OTARU'S TOYS NOW.
HMM...
WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT THAT.
OH?
DOES DR. FRANKEN-STEIN HAVE A PLAN?
LET'S JUST SAY THAT THERE'S NOTHING GARTLAND'S TECHNOLOGY CAN'T DO!
FAUST-SAMA DEMANDS OF US ONLY ONE THING—ABSOLUTE PERFECTION!

Chapter 20 The Dark Rain



PANT
TIGER! WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?
PANT
PANT
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?
PANT
REMEMBER...

REMEMBER...
REMEMBER WHO YOU WORK FOR.
REMEMBER YOUR MISSION!
NOOOO!!!
IT WAS JUST A DREAM.
はァっ
はァっ
はァっ



LIME! DON'T YOU DARE!
AWW...IT LOOKS SO YUMMY!

IT IS YUMMY. AND IT'S ALSO FOR THE SHOGUN.
SOWWY.
......
WHY... WHY DO I HAVE THE SAME DREAM EVERY NIGHT?
WHO IS CALLING TO ME?
REMEMBER WHAT? AM I ON A MISSION?
COME ON, TIGER! WE'RE LEAVING.
OKAY, I'M COMING.
...
HMM? WHAT'S THIS?

WHERE'D THIS COME FROM?

AND THEN, OTARU FELL FLAT ON HIS FACE! BUT I KISSED HIS BOO BOO AND MADE IT ALL BETTER.
MMM...I KISSED HIS BOO BOO LAST NIGHT.
OKAY, YOU TWO...YOU CAN STOP EMBARRASSING ME NOW.
KYA HA HA! YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOUR FACE IS ALL RED.
チラッ
SO...
OTARU...
WON'T YOU INTRODUCE ME TO THE OTHER MARIONETTES?
OH! OKAY.
SORRY. I SHOULD'VE DONE THAT FIRST.

HEY, TIGER! COME OVER HERE.
HUH?
OH!
THIS IS SHOGUN IEYASU TOKUGAWA. INTRODUCE YOURSELF.
YES, SIR.
MY NAME IS TIGER.
HELLO, TIGER.
WON'T YOU COME CLOSER, SO I CAN SEE YOUR FACE?
SURE! NO PROBLEM.

TIGER...
REMEMBER... THE ENEMY!!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
YES, YOUR HEAD...IT'S STILL ATTACHED TO YOUR BODY.

HEY!!
TIGER!
?
OH!
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
I...
I...I DON'T KNOW.

I...I'M SORRY OTARU-SAMA.
WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE, TIGER?

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE LATELY.
....
IT'S...THESE DREAMS I'VE BEEN HAVING.
DREAMS?
I HEAR A VOICE CALLING TO ME FROM THE DARKNESS.
IT SAYS TO REMEMBER...
...MY MISSION.

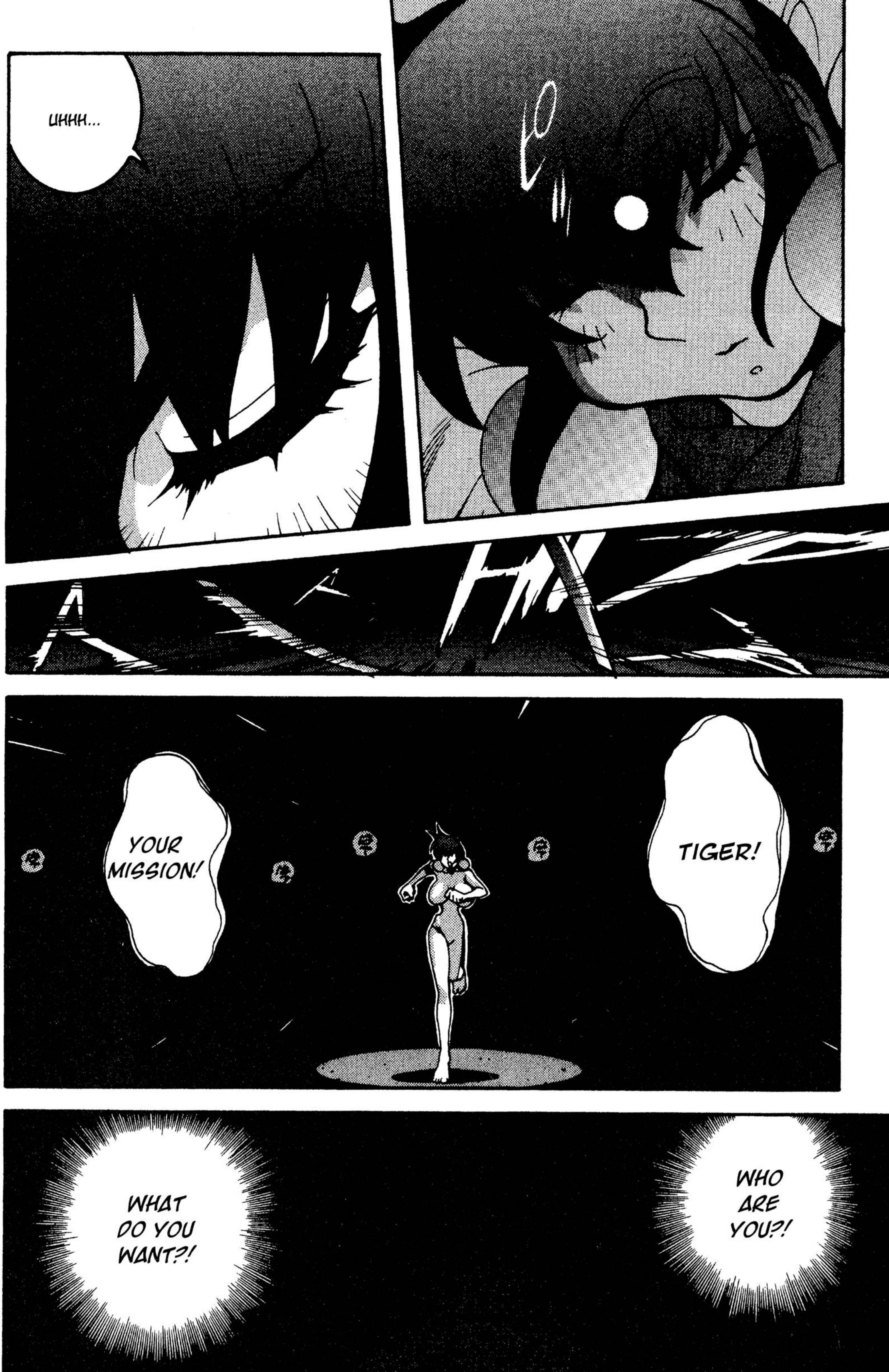
OTARU-SAMA... MAYBE HER MEMORY IS RETURNING.
IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT CHERRY...
...WE NEED TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT THIS.
MY LIPS ARE SEALED!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, TIGER.
HMM?

AWW, TIGER...
...THEY'RE JUST DREAMS.
YOU NEED TO GET YOUR MIND OFF THEM. THAT'S ALL.
LET'S DO SOME-THING FUN.
OKAY.
DID YOU WANT TO PLAY BOOBY BOUNCE BINGO AGAIN, OTARU?
UH...
HOW ABOUT A RACE BACK TO THE HOUSE? LAST ONE THERE LOSES!
HA! IT WON'T BE ME!

IT'LL BE OKAY. WE CAN TRUST OTARU, RIGHT?
......
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO ALONG.
OKAY?
THAT'S RIGHT!

-100
BEEP
TIME IS ALMOST UP.
CONTINUE THE MEMORY JOLTS. I WANT IT PERFECT THIS TIME.

READY? GO!
HEH HEH...


UHHH...
TIGER!
YOUR MISSION!
WHO ARE YOU?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

I HAVE OTARU-SAMA TO LOOK AFTER ME!!
COME OUT! WHY WON'T YOU SHOW YOURSELF?!
ARE YOU REALLY UGLY OR SOMETHING?
!
OTARU-SAMA!!
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU HAVE DONE WELL, TIGER.

OH, OTARU...
COME TO ME, TIGER.
YOU ARE MINE NOW.
ニヤッ
THANK YOU, OTARU.
TIGER?
YES?
HUH?

REMEMBER!!
OH, GOD... NO!
YOU'RE-- I THOUGHT YOU--

OH OTARU... TIGER'S GOT A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU...
IT'S CALLED EXTINC-TION!!

REMEMBER, TIGER.
GOOD-BYE, OTARU...
IT'S TIME FOR ONE LAST HAND JOB!
THE ENEMY! THE MISSION!!

Chapter 21 The Devil's Prelude

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
Z Z Z
......
WHAT...
AM I DOING?

AAAAH!!
TIGER!
KILL OTARU!
M-MY HANDS! THEY'RE MOVING BY THEM-SELVES!!
THAT'S GOOD, TIGER!.
HUFF
NO...
THIS... IS MY MISSION?!
HUFF

FAUST-SAMA!!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER ...
MY LORD.
DOCTOR HESS...
THERE'S AN INCOMING COMMUNICATION FROM THE JAPONESS INFILTRATION TEAM.

SIR, WE'VE LOCATED THE ROGUE UNIT.
BUT IT'S SHOWING SIGNS OF RESISTANCE.
PANT
PANT
PANT
YOU MUST COMPLETE THE OPERATION BEFORE FAUST-SAMA WAKES UP.
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT.
70.
YES, SIR!

?!
OH MY GOD! WHAT--?
EVERYBODY UP! QUICK!
TIGER AND THE DOLLS ARE GONE!!

PANT
PANT
PANT
OKAY, THIS IS FAR ENOUGH.
PANT
PANT
......
WHAT'S GOING ON, TIGER? YOU'RE BEHAVING ILLOGICALLY.
YEAH...I FINALLY MEET A MAN I CAN STOMACH AND YOU WANT TO LEAVE.

YES, PANTHER, BECAUSE THAT MAN YOU HOLD SO DEAR...
...WILL SOON BE DEAD.
DEAD?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, TIGER?
はっ
SHE'S TALKING ABOUT YOUR DESTINY, LYNX.
WHO'S THERE?!

IT'S TIME FOR US TO RETURN TO GARTLAND...
...MY SABER DOLLS!
OTARU, WHAT'S HAPPENED?!
THE SABER DOLLS ARE GONE!
DON'T WORRY, OTARU, WE'LL FIND--!

ULP!
GOING SOMEWHERE, BOY?
UH...LIME? ARE THESE FRIENDS OF YOURS?

NO, MASTER, BUT THEY LOOK LIKE THEY WANT TO PLAY.
KILL HIM!!

WHICH OF YOU BITCHES WANTS A MOUTHFUL OF BERRY?!
OTARU-SAMA!
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM! GO! QUICKLY!!
THANKS, CHERRY!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHY WOULD WE WANT TO GO TO GARTLAND? IT SMELLS LIKE ASS OVER THERE.
WHO IS THIS MAN...AND WHY DOES HE HAVE MY HAIRCUT?
GART-LAND IS YOUR HOME.
UH...NO, OUR HOME IS WITH OTARU.
I DON'T GET THIS GUY--IT'S RAINING AND HE'S DRY AS A BONE. IS HE A HOLOGRAM?
I ASSURE YOU, YOU ARE...
...GARTLAND MARIONETTES!!
TIGER HAS REALIZED THE TRUTH, WHICH IS WHY SHE HAS BROUGHT YOU HERE.

MY MAIDEN CIRCUIT IS TREMBLING LIKE AN EARTH-QUAKE! WHY?!
HEY TIGER!!
LYNX! PANTHER!!
HUFF
THANK GOD!
HUFF
I FOUND YOU!

COME ON.
LET'S GO HOME!
OTARU... SAMA...

TIGER? WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG? C'MON, GIRLS, I'M SOAKING WET.
OTARU-SAMA. TELL ME...
TELL ME JUST ONE THING.
....

ARE WE GARTLAND MARIONETTES? WERE WE MADE TO BE YOUR ENEMIES?
NNNNN...
NO! OF COURSE NOT!
NOW LET'S GO HOME! PLEASE!!
OTARU...

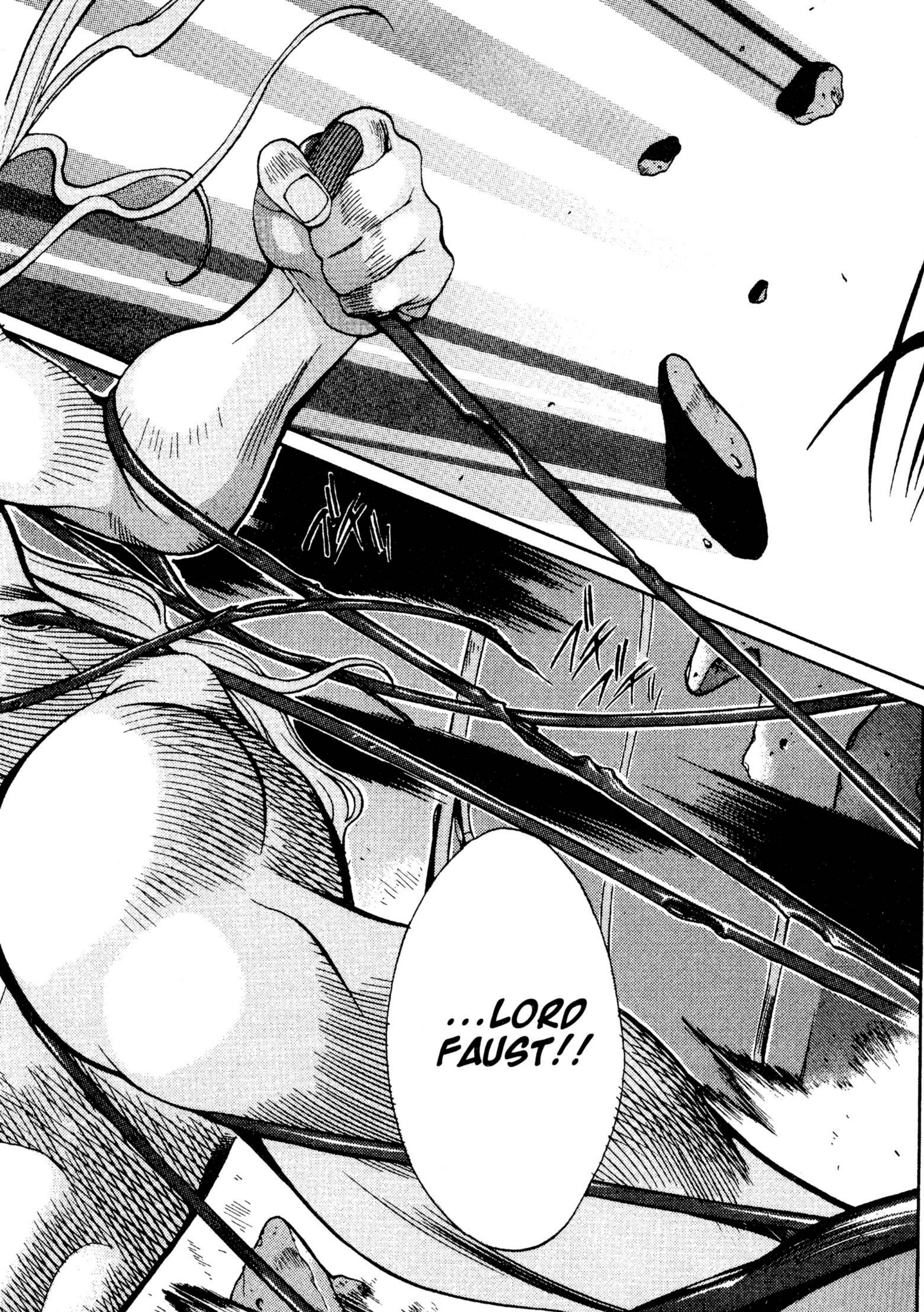
I'M SORRY, OTARU...
...WHY HAVE YOU LIED TO US?
TIGER! NO, DON'T GO!
I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU, OTARU-SAMA. EVEN AFTER I KILL YOU.
LYNX, PANTHER, WAIT!

THESE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN NICE...BUT I'M AFRAID THE DREAM MUST END.

チリ
チリ
チリ
WHY?
WHY?!
RRRAAGGH!!
NOOOO!!

beep
Timer at zero. Regeneration cycle is complete.
Mode change confirmed. Begin automatic operation.
Warning! Warning!

BRING HIS LORDSHIP'S CLOTHES, QUICKLY!
HEH HEH HEH! AT LAST.
THE MOMENT HAS FINALLY ARRIVED! WELCOME BACK...


...LORD FAUST!!

Chapter 22
A Promise for
Ever and Ever

OOPSIE DAISY!
I SAW THAT, LIME!
CAN'T YOU EVEN AIR OUT A FUTON RIGHT?
CLUMSY!
YOU'D BETTER LET THE PROS HANDLE THIS. AND WHEN IT COMES TO BEDDING, THE PRO IS ME!

DAMN. GUESS I WAS TOO ROUGH.
UH... LET'S GO PLAY, LIME!
YAY! OKAY.
HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! WE HAVE CHORES TO DO!
COME ON. WE HAVEN'T HAD A NICE DAY IN A WHILE!
OTARU! LET'S PLAY.
OTARU?
I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT RIGHT NOW.

FAUST-SAMA IS GOING TO GIVE A SPEECH!
REALLY? I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD. HOW CREEPY.
LOOK! THERE HE IS!

CITIZENS OF GARTLAND!
AS YOU MAY KNOW, THERE WAS RECENTLY AN ATTEMPT MADE ON MY LIFE.
THIS ATTEMPT WAS CARRIED OUT BY FOOLISH REVOLUTIONARIES FROM JAPONESS.
"WHY ARE THEY FOOLS?" YOU ASK?
BECAUSE THEY FAIL TO REALIZE THAT I SIMPLY CANNOT BE KILLED.
NOT UNTIL I HAVE FULFILLED MY DESTINY AS GRAND RULER OF TERRA 2!!
WE ARE THE PEOPLE CHOSEN TO UNIFY ALL NATIONS OF TERRA 2 UNDER ONE FLAG--GARTLAND'S!!
GRAND RULER?
DEAR GOD...

THE TIME HAS COME! STAND AND TAKE UP YOUR WEAPONS! WE MUST TAKE A FIRM STEP TOWARD OUR FUTURE!!
HM ...
LONG LIVE LORD GERHART VON FAUST!!!
HEIL FAUST!
HEIL FAUST!
HEIL FAUST!
HEIL FAUST!

FAUST, AS YOU KNOW, IS THE RULER OF GARTLAND, AND IT APPEARS HE HAS JUST DECLARED WAR ON JAPONESS. WE REPEAT...
WE ARE LISTENING TO A SPEECH MADE BY GERHART VON FAUST MOMENTS AGO.
HEIL FAUST!
HEIL FAUST!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
HMM.
THAT FAUST IS A BIG BULLY! AND I'M TIRED OF BEING BULLIED.
...ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION JUST RECEIVED...
TURN OFF THE TV.
OTARU?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FOR A WALK OR SOME-THING?
HOW ABOUT SOME ICED TEA, OR HOW ABOUT SOME COOKIES? I CAN WHIP UP SOME OF YOUR FAVORITES.
I KNOW SOMETHING THAT WILL CHEER OTARU UP...!
HOW ABOUT IT, OTARU?
I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT RIGHT NOW.
OTARU, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUT OF THE HOUSE AT ALL LATELY.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN EATING MUCH EITHER. IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH.
OTARU?
SORRY, EVERYBODY.
I KNOW YOU'RE THINKING OF ME...BUT RIGHT NOW I JUST WANT TO...BE BY MYSELF.
I'D LIKE TO BE ALONE FOR A WHILE, OKAY?

LOOKIE ME, OTARU!
LIME... YUCK!
YOU HAVEN'T LAUGHED IN A LONG TIME.
OH, YES, OTARU-SAMA. FOR DINNER TONIGHT, WE'LL BE HAVING SUPER MEAL SURPRISE!
WELL, WHICH IS IT, "SOUP" OR A MEAL?
THAT'S THE SURPRISE, YOU DORK!
I THINK I'LL BE EATING OUT!
MMM...
MMM...
....

OTARU, IT'S SAD THAT TIGER AND THE OTHERS ARE GONE, BUT...
...IT'S SADDER THAT YOU'RE LIKE THIS.
YEAH, THEY WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS, EITHER.
PLEASE CHEER UP, OTARU-SAMA!

GUYS...I'M REALLY SORRY, BUT...
"WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER, WON'T WE?"
"SURE WE WILL."
WE WERE JUST STARTING TO HAVE FUN TOO!!
TIGER, LYNX, PANTHER...
I... DID LIE.

GOD-
DAMMIT!

HEH HEH HEH!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT, TIGER?
YES, SIR.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN, A MONTH? TWO MONTHS?
I...I DON'T KNOW.
YOU DON'T REMEMBER? YOUR MEMORY CIRCUITS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY SUFFERED DAMAGE.
AH!
WHAT WAS YOUR MISSION?!
I...I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE.
LET ME HELP YOU REMEMBER.

OH... FAUST-SAMA...
OUR MISSION... WAS...
TIGER...
THE WIND IS BLOW-ING...
JUST LIKE IT WAS THEN...

YOU LIED TO ME, OTARU-SAMA.
NO! I WAS SERIOUS!!
I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE WHO LIE.
TIGER!!
GOODBYE.
TIGER!! NO! COME BACK!
WAIT!! DON'T GO!
TAKE CARE OF THE MARIONETTES. AT LEAST UNTIL WE TAKE THEM APART.
IT'S NO USE. SHE'S GONE.

OTARU?
I'M NO GOOD LIKE THIS!
MASTER?
CHEER UP, OTARU.
THEY'RE SO NICE TO ME.
SO WHY DO I FEEL THIS WAY?!
I'M NOT WORTHY OF LIME, CHERRY AND BLOOD-BERRY.

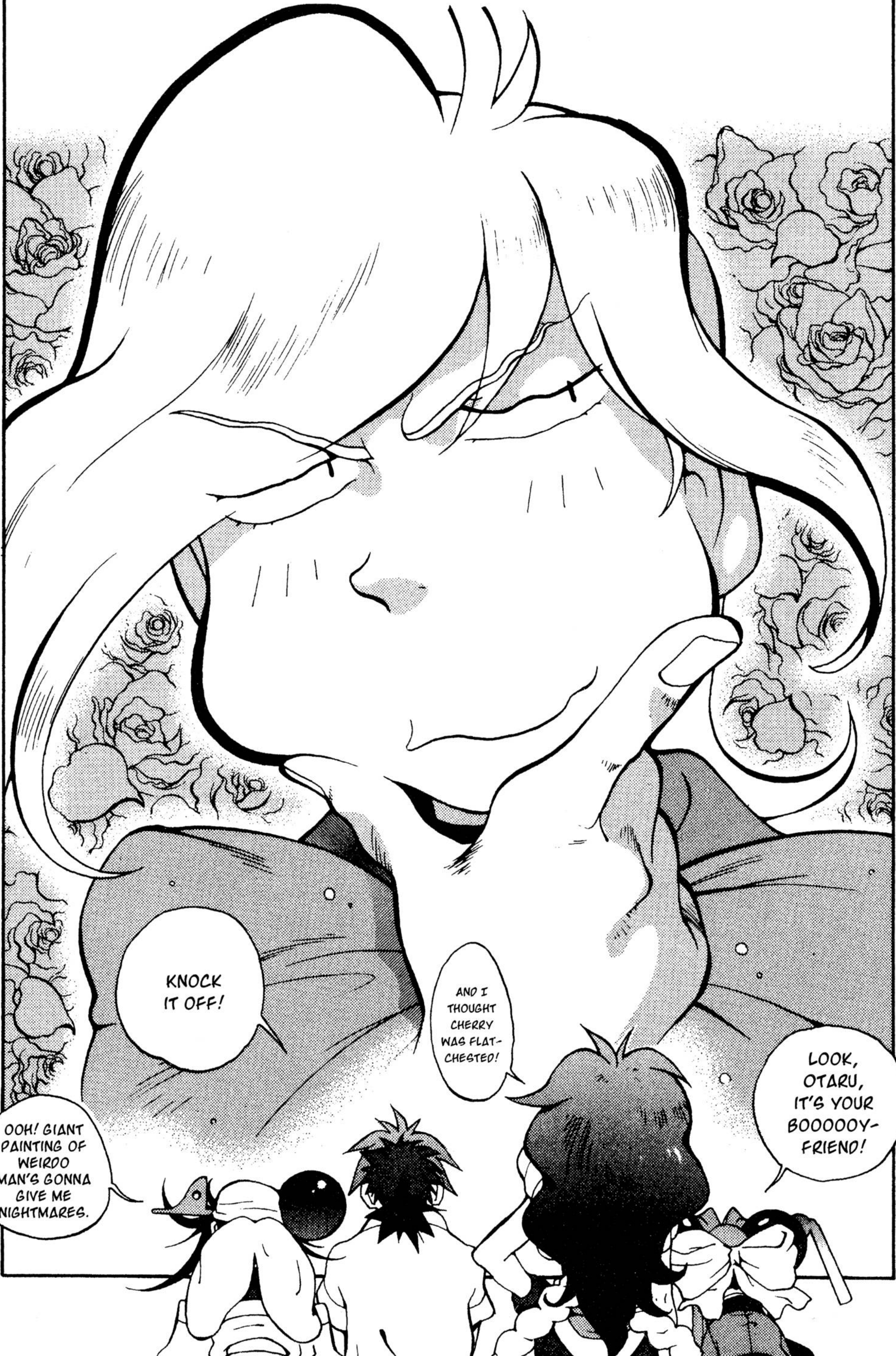
OTARU?
OTARU?
WHY?

LET'S GO HOME, OTARU.
PLEASE?
FOR THEIR SAKE...I CAN'T KEEP BEING DEPRESSED!!

AWW! OTARU STILL NEEDS TO CHEER UP! GROUP HUG!
THERE YOU GO, MASTER. REST YOUR HEAD ON MY CHEST.
TELL ME SOME-THING, GIRLS,,, DID I LIE TO THEM?
LIE?
OH, OTARU...
QUIT BEING SO SILLY!
LIME'S RIGHT. THOSE GIRLS HAVE BEEN LIED TO THEIR ENTIRE LIVES. YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE TO TELL THEM THE TRUTH.
BESIDES... NO MATTER WHAT, WE'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU, OTARU.

YEAH, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
HOPEFULLY, ONE DAY TIGER, LYNX AND PAN-THER WILL REALIZE THAT...
...AND WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN!
MY MISSION...
IT WAS... TO KILL... OTARU... MAMIYA!

Chapter 23 Mitsurugi Hanagata Strikes Back



WELL, CHERRY, THAT WAS DELICIOUS AS ALWAYS.
IN FACT, I THINK I'M UP TO FIXING THAT LEAK IN OUR ROOF.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, OTARU-SAMA.
DIBS ON ANY FRISBEES THAT ARE UP THERE!
I THINK OTARU'S FEELING BETTER, CHERRY.
ME TOO, LIME.

OTARU-SAMA HAS HAD A REALLY HARD TIME SINCE THE SABER DOLLS LEFT.
BUT HE SEEMS TO BE OVER IT NOW.
HE'S FINALLY GETTING BACK...
...ON TOP OF THINGS!
....
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, OTARU.
...

I REALIZE THAT I'M ONLY AROUND FOR COMIC RELIEF. I'VE ACCEPTED THAT FOR A WHILE NOW.
BUT THINGS ARE CHANGING. OUR STORY'S GOTTEN MORE SERIOUS.
I'VE WAITED FOR MONTHS TO MAKE AN APPEAR-ANCE.
NOW I MUST DEMAND...
...THAT I BE GIVEN A JUICY SCENE!
COME SEEK CONSOLATION IN MY ARMS. CRY NO MORE, FOR HANAGATA IS HERE!
WAIT A MINUTE! WHO'S HERE? WHO THE HELL IS HANAGATA?

WAAAAA!
YOU'RE SO CRUEL!
OH, STOP IT, MITSURUGI! I WAS JUST JOKING.
HEH HEH
えぐ
I'M JUST AN INCIDENTAL CHARACTER! A COMEDY SIDEKICK!!
BUT OF ALL PEOPLE, I THOUGHT YOU, OTARU, WOULD CARE!
えぐ
STOP CRYING! YOU KNOW I COULD NEVER FORGET YOU.

THEN WOULD YOU SPEND THE DAY WITH ME?
UMM... WELL... I...
WAAA! YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME AFTER ALL!!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! I'LL SPEND THE DAY WITH YOU!
REALLY? GREAT! GUESS WHAT I'M HIDING DOWN HERE UNDER MY SHIRT?
TICKETS TO MONSTER HUNTER LAND!
WOW, THEY'RE REAL!
NO, THEY'RE NOT, BLOODBERRY! YOU SAID THEY WERE SILICONE!
SHE'S TALKING ABOUT THE TICKETS, YOU DITZY DROID.

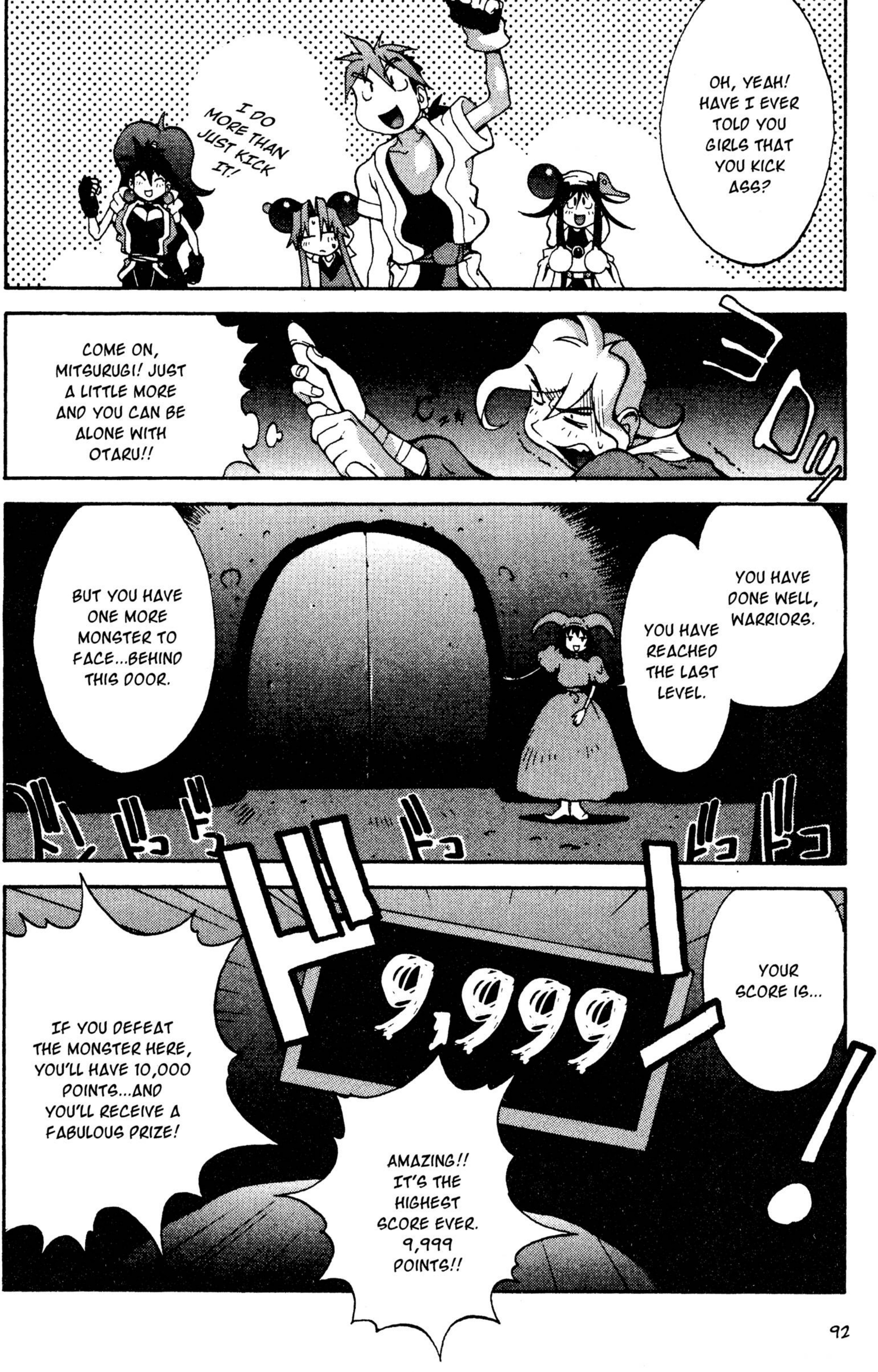
WELCOME TO MONSTER HUNTER LAND.
OKAY, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, HANAGATA?
IT'S THE LATEST THING...
...A THEME PARK OF HAUNTED HOUSES.

IF YOU'RE AFRAID, CHERRY, WE'LL SEND YOU HOME WITH A BABYSITTER.
D-DON'T BE SILLY! TH-THIS IS SOOO NOT SCARY.
....
WATCH OUT, YOU CHEAP OLD MARIONETTES.
I AM A DIFFERENT PERSON TODAY.
"OPERATION: TO OTARU WITH LOVE" IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
UH... HANAGATA-- YOU COMING? AND WHAT'S WITH THE HENRY VIII POSE?
OH.
UH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. I'M COMING.
WELCOME, WARRIORS, TO MONSTER MANSION.
THERE ARE SEVEN LEVELS TO THE MANSION.
EACH WILL TEST YOUR COURAGE, YOUR INTELLIGENCE AND YOUR STRENGTH WITH INCREASING DIFFICULTY.

YOU MUST DEFEAT EACH MONSTER IN ORDER TO PROCEED TO THE NEXT LEVEL! READY...BEGIN!!

GRRROW!!
OH, OTARU! HE'S SO CUTE! CAN I PLAY WITH THE PRETTY KITTY?
YAAAAY! HEE HEE!
YOU'VE EARNED THIRTY POINTS!
UH...LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT LEVEL.
TEE HEE!
I PLAY WITH PUSSIES PRETTY GOOD, DON'T I, MASTER?
NEXT ONE'S MINE, LIME!

HURRY UP, HANAGATA! WE'RE GETTING AHEAD OF YOU!
MMM! I HAVE A HEAD OF HANAGATA'S TOO!
LEVEL SEVEN!!


OH, YEAH! HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU GIRLS THAT YOU KICK ASS?
I DO MORE THAN JUST KICK IT!
COME ON, MITSURUGI! JUST A LITTLE MORE AND YOU CAN BE ALONE WITH OTARU!!
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, WARRIORS.
YOU HAVE REACHED THE LAST LEVEL.
BUT YOU HAVE ONE MORE MONSTER TO FACE...BEHIND THIS DOOR.
YOUR SCORE IS...
9,999
AMAZING!! IT'S THE HIGHEST SCORE EVER. 9,999 POINTS!!
IF YOU DEFEAT THE MONSTER HERE, YOU'LL HAVE 10,000 POINTS...AND YOU'LL RECEIVE A FABULOUS PRIZE!

AS YOU'LL SEE, THIS MONSTER IS QUITE STRONG!
BE WARY WHEN YOU FIGHT HIM.
REALLY?!
THAT'S WHAT THEY TELL ME! BUT NO ONE'S EVER DONE IT BEFORE.
...
ENTER... IF YOU DARE.
JEEZ...
LAYING IT ON A BIT THICK, AREN'T WE?
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
OKAY, MAYBE SHE WASN'T.

WELL...
YOU'RE A BIG ONE, AREN'T YOU?
WAA!
WELL, I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE ONE-EYED MONSTERS OF ALL SHAPES 'N' SIZES!

UH OH.
WHOA!
BLOOD-BERRY!! ARE YOU OKAY?!
LIKE IT ROUGH, DO WE?
HEY! I THOUGHT ALL THIS WAS JUST FOR FUN!
RAAAARGH!

!!
RRRAAAAH!
EXIT
EXIT
GAME OVER
LIME! CHERRY! BLOOD-BERRY!
ULP!
FEAR NOT, OTARU!!
I WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THIS NASTY BEAST!
I, YOUR ONE CLOSEST AND DEAREST AND TRUEST LOVE!

HANA-GATA? I'M DEAD.
HOW DO YOU LIKE ME NOW, OTARU?
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT!
THIS IS ALL GOING AS PLANNED.
THIS BEAST,,, MY MARIONETTE!
MODEL NUMBER H-619 "FRED, THE CYCLOPTIC CYBORG."
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DEFEAT THIS THING AND...
...OTARU WILL BE MINE!
UNHAND THEM, YOU MONSTROUS MONSTROSITY!

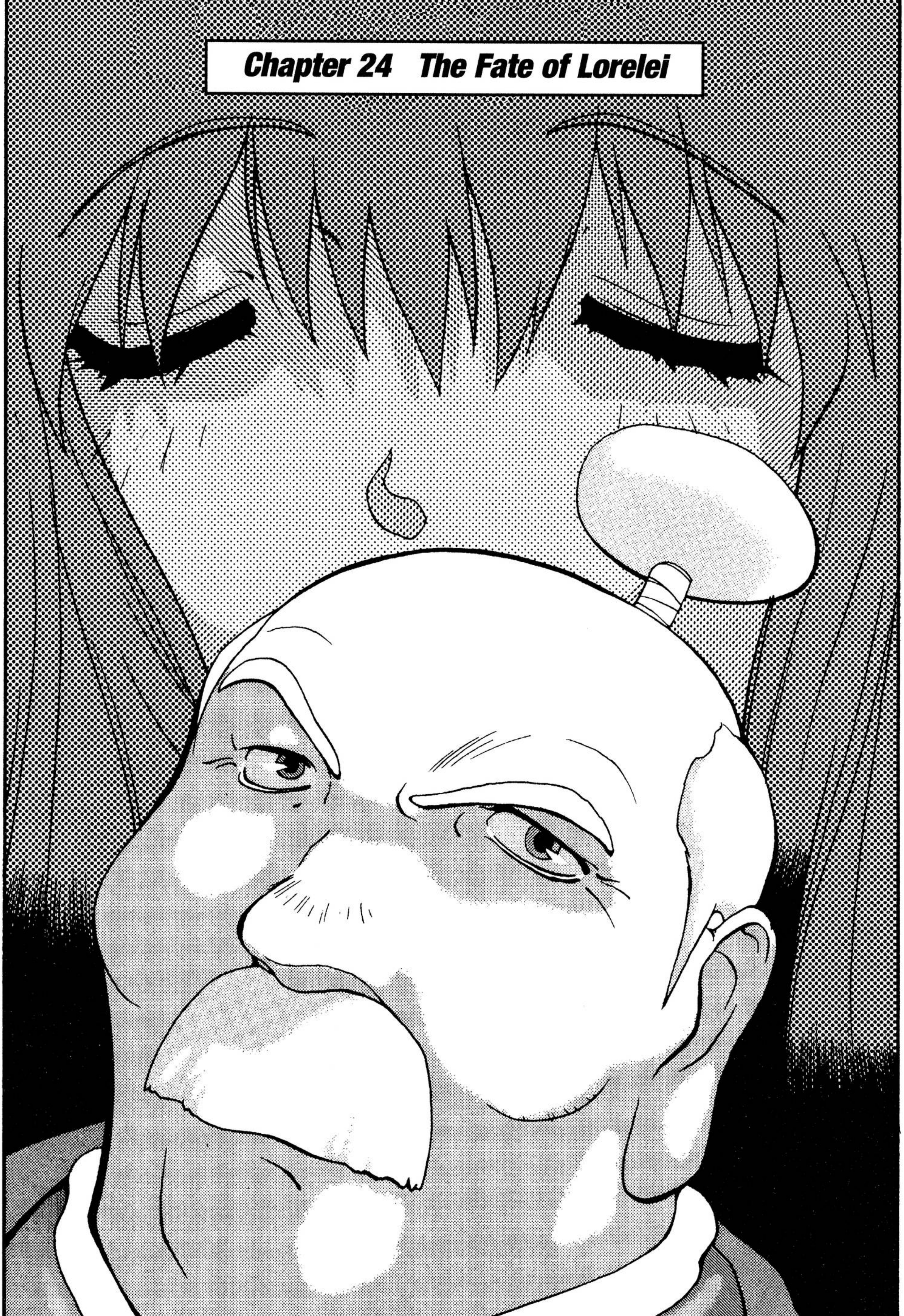
WHAT THE--?! HEY!!
HANA-GATA!
H-HE WAS SUPPOSED TO FALL WITH ONE BLOW.
!!!
RRRAAAH!
RRRAAA-RRRGHH!
IT'S GONE HAYWIRE!
RUN, OTARU!
WHERE? THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN!

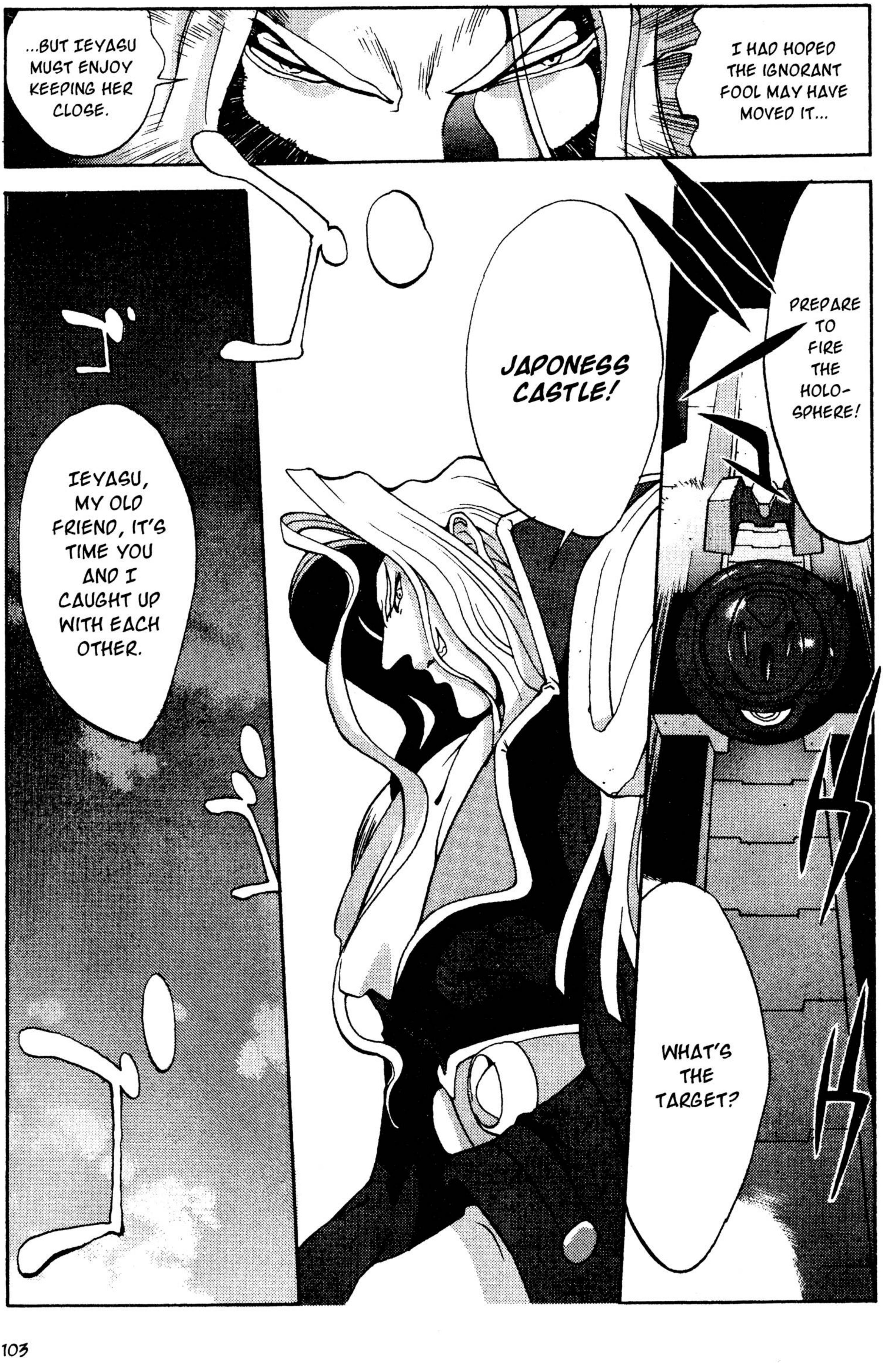
WE'RE COMING, OTARU!
URRRGH!
SORRY, DIDN'T MEAN TO LEAVE YOU ALONE WITH HANA-GATA.
AARGH!
OKAY, MONSTER GOING CRAZY AND YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME?!
OOO-WWWR!!

CONGRAT-ULATIONS! YOU'VE REACHED 10,000 POINTS!
THE FABULOUS PRIZE IS ONE YEAR'S SUPPLY OF ALL THE DEFEATED MONSTERS!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THOSE THINGS WOULD DO TO THE HOUSE?! YOU CAN KEEP 'EM!
K.O.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THESE MON-STERS. I'M GOING HOME.
O-TAR-U-U-U-U...
WHOA!
TAKE,,, ME,,,
A MUMMY! GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU MALFORMED FREAK!!
IT'S ME-- HANAGATA!
NOOOOO!

BEEP
WE'VE FINALLY HEARD FROM OUR SEARCH TEAMS, MY LORDSHIP.
BEEP
IN BOTH PETERSBURG AND ROMANIA, THEY REPORT NO SIGN OF THE CAPSULE.
HMM...
TELL THEM TO STOP SEARCHING.
I KNOW WHERE IT IS.

Chapter 24 The Fate of Lorelei




I HAD HOPED THE IGNORANT FOOL MAY HAVE MOVED IT...
...BUT IEYASU MUST ENJOY KEEPING HER CLOSE.
PREPARE TO FIRE THE HOLO-SPHERE!
WHAT'S THE TARGET?
JAPONESS CASTLE!
IEYASU, MY OLD FRIEND, IT'S TIME YOU AND I CAUGHT UP WITH EACH OTHER.

flap flap
OTARU, HOW MUCH LONGER?
IT'S YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR THAT LAST CHAPTER.
WATCH THE HOUSE FOR A WHILE, WILL YOU?!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WE'RE GOING TO VISIT THE SHOGUN.
I WANT TO COME TOO--!
IT'S NOT FOR PLEASURE. WE'RE FILING A REPORT!
QUIET, YOU!

YAY! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE SAW MAS-TER SHOGUN! I WONDER WHICH CHEEK HE'LL PINCH THIS TIME?
OPEN THE GATE!

OH, MY!
OTARU-SAMA, I FORGOT TO BRING THE SHOGUN'S GIFT!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. HE PROBABLY ALREADY HAS ONE.
I'LL GO GET IT!
BUT IT'S SUCH A CUTE SINGING FISH! I'M GONNA GO GET IT.
WE'LL MEET YOU INSIDE!
A GIFT? WHY, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.
I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE TEA AND TALK BUSINESS.
WE ARE GOING TO TALK BUSINESS, BUT--
OTARU! I DON'T KNOW BUSINESS. I WANT TO TALK ENGLISH!

WHAT'S THAT?
A SHOOTING STAR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?
I'LL MAKE A WISH!
I WISH UPON A STAR THAT I MIGHT MARRY OTARU-SAMA!
AND WE'LL BE HAPPY TOGETHER FOREVER!
HEY!
IT'S... IT'S... COMING THIS WAY!
I ASKED YOU HERE TODAY TO TALK ABOUT FAUST.
WHAT THE--?

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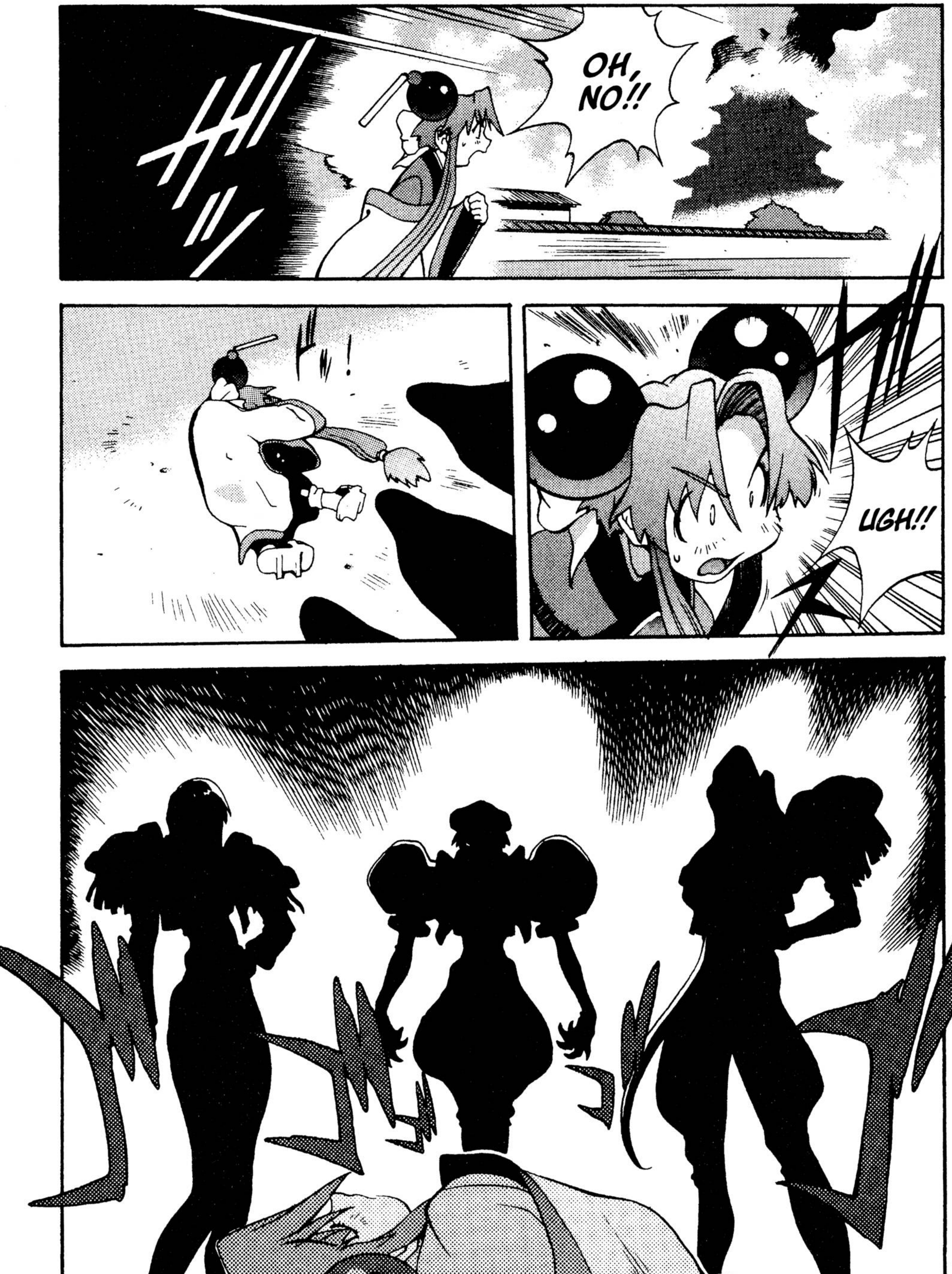

OH, NO!!
UGH!!

UHHHH... WHA'HAPP'N?
SHOGUN IEYASU, ARE YOU OKAY?!
UH...YES.
BUT IT SEEMS WE HAVE AN UNINVITED GUEST.
WHA...
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!

FORGIVE ME. PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE KNOCKED.
FAUST! HOW DARE YOU!
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO AN OLD FRIEND? YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO ME, IEYASU. AT LEAST I GAVE YOU SOME TIME WITH HER.
TIME? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

QUIT PRETENDING TO BE AS DUMB AS YOU LOOK! HAND IT OVER TO ME NOW AND I WILL SPARE YOUR LIFE AND YOUR NATION.
I WANT LORELEI!
HAND OVER? HAND OVER WHAT?
MUST I SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU, OLD MAN?
I WANT THE CAP-SULE!

WHAT'S WRONG, LIME?!
I...I DON'T KNOW. MY...MY MAIDEN CIRCUIT...
WHAT ABOUT IT?
...IT HURTS!
!

YOU'VE HAD HER HERE ALL THIS TIME.
AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE HER TO ME OR JAPONESS WILL SUFFER.
WHERE HAVE YOU HIDDEN HER, IEYASU?
PANT
PANT
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
IS THAT SO?
SUIT YOURSELF, THEN.

!!
OH MY GOD! THE CITY!
DON'T MAKE THIS HARDER THAN IT HAS TO BE.
YOU... MON-STER!!

TELL ME WHERE SHE IS!!
GO TO HELL!
WHAT A SELFISH MAN YOU ARE. YOU'D PUT A SINGLE WOMAN OVER THE SAFETY OF YOUR OWN PEOPLE?
I WOULDN'T SACRIFICE EITHER. BUT I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS.

THE SHOGUN IS TELLING THE TRUTH. HE REALLY DOESN'T KNOW.
STOP, FAUST!!
SABER DOLLS!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T OTARU, THE SAVIOR OF JAPONESS. IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU MET THE REAL IEYASU.
OTARU! LOOK!
!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

CHERRY!!
FAUST, YOU SON OF A--!
NO, OTARU! YOU'LL JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE.
OTARU, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION I ASKED IEYASU.
WHERE IS LORELEI?!

LORELEI?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! LET CHERRY GO!
THAT NAME...WHY DOES IT SOUND FAMILIAR?
I GROW TIRED OF WAITING.
....
YOU SEE THIS LARGE SPHERE BEHIND ME? IT'S THE LATEST IN GARTLAND TECHNOLOGY--A FUSION BOMB
NOW, YOU EITHER TELL ME WHERE LORELEI IS... OR YOUR ENTIRE CITY STARTS GLOWING.
!!

I THINK I KNOW WHERE LORELEI IS!
I...I THINK I KNOW...

Chapter 25 Guard the Top Secret!

SPEAK, IEYASU. WHERE IS LORELEI?
I TRUST YOU STUDIED HISTORY BEFORE WE CRASHED ON TERRA 2. YOU KNOW WHAT A BOMB LIKE THIS CAN DO!
IEYASU-SAMA, IT'S YOUR CALL. SHOULD I HAVE LIME AND BLOOD-BERRY ATTACK?

AFTER YOU'RE GONE, I WILL TEAR JAPONESS APART LOOKING FOR LORELEI. I WILL FIND HER.
NOW CHOOSE! YOUR LIFE AND THE LIVES OF EVERYONE IN THIS CITY OR THE WOMAN!!
......
I...
WOMAN?!
WHAT'S GOING ON? I THOUGHT THERE WERE NO WOMEN ON TERRA 2!
LIME! NO!
I THINK... I KNOW WHERE SHE IS.

INITIALIZE THE FUSION BOMB! TARGET THE HEART OF THE CITY.
IS THERE NO END TO YOUR SELF-ISHNESS, IEYASU?
SABER DOLLS!!
YOU WIN, FAUST.
ALL RIGHT!!
BRING THE CAPSULE CONTAINING LORELEI BACK TO GARTLAND. I'LL BE WAITING.
HANG IN THERE, CHERRY. THIS AIN'T OVER YET.

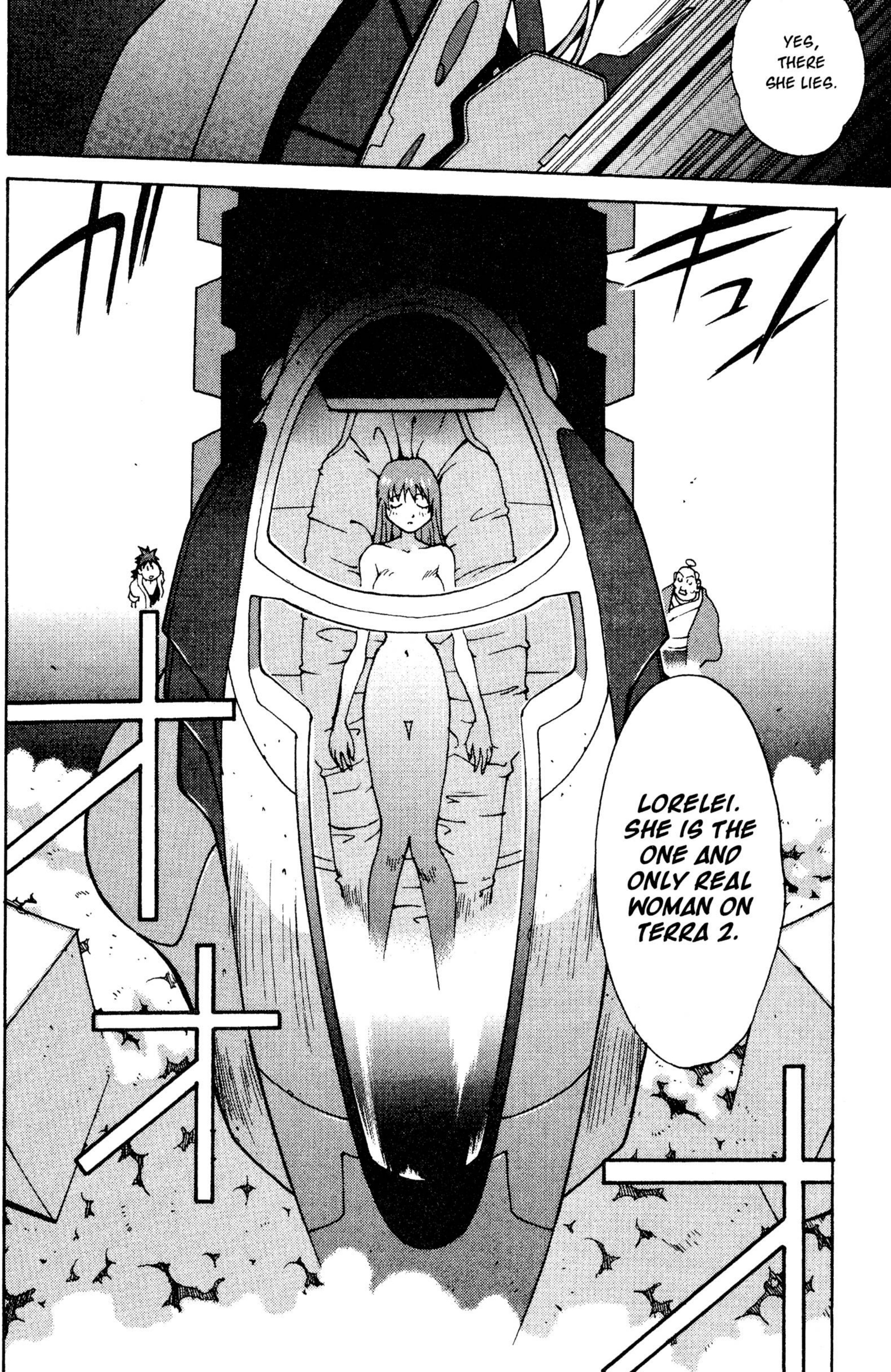
JUST SO YOU KNOW...
...ANY FUNNY BUSINESS, AND THIS ONE WILL DIE.
......
NOW SHOW US THE WAY.
beep beep
THEY'RE MOVING, SIR!
KEEP TRACK OF THEM.
beep
beep
HOW'S THE RETRIEVAL GOING, HESS?
PROCEEDING PERFECTLY, FAUST-SAMA.

EXCELLENT!!
HEH HEH HEH!
AT LAST! LORELEI WILL FINALLY BE MINE!!
HEY, THIS IS...
...THE JAPONESS HISTORY MUSEUM!

THIS MUST BE LORELEI.
THEN THIS PICTURE,,,

LORELEI?
SHE'S PRETTY.
HOW? HOW IS IT THAT I KNOW THIS PERSON?
THIS IS WHERE OTARU AND I MET.

THIS IS WHERE SHE IS.
THEY'VE REACHED THE TARGET!
SEND THE COORDI-NATES TO THE RETRIEVAL TEAM!
....
HEH.
WOW! SO THAT'S HER?


YES, THERE SHE LIES.
LORELEI. SHE IS THE ONE AND ONLY REAL WOMAN ON TERRA 2.

GOOD!
SO THERE'S NO REASON TO KEEP LUGGING AROUND THIS DEAD WEIGHT.
THIS IS ONE CHERRY THAT WILL NEVER GET A CHANCE TO BLOS-SOM.
CHERRY!
TIGER, YOU LYING LITTLE--!

WHAT THE HELL?!
CHERRY!!
PANT
PANT
NOW I KNOW WHY NONE OF YOU ARE NAMED CHEETAH-- YOU'RE TOO DAMN SLOW!

!
DON'T GET CATTY WITH A GIRL NAMED "TIGER," CHERRY.
HOLD IT!
TIGER! LYNX! PANTHER!! IT'S ME, OTARU!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?
YES, I KNOW YOU.
YOU'RE THAT MAN THAT LIED TO US.
BECAUSE OF YOU, FAUST-SAMA WAS WOUNDED.

HUMPH!
TIGER, NO!
GET DOWN, OTARU!
WE LEARNED THAT LESSON THE FIRST TIME WE TASTED CHERRY'S COOKING, BLOODBERRY.
MARIONETTES, IT'S TIME TO GIVE THESE GARTLAND GIRLS A LESSON IN PAIN!

STOP!
STOP!
STOP!
I DIDN'T WANT IT TO COME TO THIS!
WHY CAN'T THEY REMEMBER?
!

MY MAIDEN CIRCUIT! IT'S HURTING AGAIN!
STOP! PLEASE!
THE PRETTY LADY INSIDE IS CRYING!!
IT'S GOING FOR THE CAPSULE! WE HAVE TO STOP IT!

LOOK OUT!!
SHOGUN IEYASU, WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT WE CAN DO.
OTARU...
IT'S UP TO YOU NOW.
PRESS THE RED BUTTON ON THE CAPSULE CONTROL PANEL. THAT WILL SHOOT THE CAPSULE INTO SPACE!
INTO SPACE?!

YES. SHE'LL BE LAUNCHED OUT INTO THE DARKNESS WHERE NO ONE WILL EVER FIND HER.
IEYASU, NO!
WE CAN'T! WE NEED HER TOO!
はっ
PANT
PANT
NO, OTARU. WE'VE HELD ONTO HER FOR LONG ENOUGH. SHE'S TOO DANGEROUS.
WARS HAVE BEEN FOUGHT OVER THIS WOMAN.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY!

LORELEI...I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU EXISTED AN HOUR AGO...
...AND NOW IT FALLS ON MY SHOULDERS TO DESTROY YOU. I'M SO SORRY...
!!
WAIT, OTARU-SAMA! PLEASE, STOP. I...I REMEMBER NOW.

OTARU-SAMA...
I... REMEMBER YOU... THE DAYS OF WARMTH AND JOY.
TIGER... YOU DO?
OTARU! NO!!
IT'S A TRICK!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...I WAS HAPPY.
YOU WERE KIND TO ME, OTARU-SAMA.
TIGER... YOU... REMEMBER?
I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT. THANK YOU.

Chapter 26 The Seventh Survivor

OTARU!!
I ALSO REMEMBER WHAT A COMPLETE IDIOT YOU ARE.
THE CAPSULE IS OURS.

TIGER, WHAT'S WRONG? WE'RE READY TO TAKE OFF.
I WAS GOING TO KILL THE THREE OF YOU TODAY, BUT YOU *DID* SHOW US KINDNESS WHEN WE WERE IN NEED. CONSIDER THAT DEBT PAID.

THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, YOU WILL DIE BY OUR HANDS, MARIONETTES!

DAMN!!
I'M SORRY, IEYASU-SAMA...I...
NO, OTARU...
IT IS I WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
IT'S MY FAULT...
THIS HAS HAPPENED.
FAUST WAS RIGHT. I WAS SELFISH. I WANTED LORELEI FOR MYSELF.

YOUR FAITH IN ME IS UNFOUNDED. THE TRUTH IS THAT I'M NOT FIT TO BE SHOGUN.
IEYASU-SAMA?
WHO IS LORELEI?

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
AS YOU KNOW, FAUST AND I ARE BOTH CLONES.
YES, I KNOW THAT. I LEARNED THAT IN SCHOOL.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
WE ARE ALL CLONES OF THE SIX MEN WHO ARRIVED ON TERRA 2...
300 YEARS AGO.

THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TAUGHT, BUT IT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE. SEVEN PEOPLE LANDED ON TERRA 2, NOT SIX.
SEVEN?
THERE WAS ONE MORE SURVIVOR... A WOMAN.
HER NAME WAS LORELEI.
THE ONLY WOMAN LEFT TO US.
BUT THERE WERE COMPLICATIONS. FOR SOME REASON, SHE DID NOT COME OUT OF STASIS.

YEARS WENT BY. WE DEVELOPED CLONING TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE OUR POPULATION.
SLOWLY, AS OUR SOCIETY GREW, WE LOOKED FOR WAYS TO REVIVE HER.
AT LAST WE FINALLY DISCOVERED THE CLUE TO WAKING HER.
SOMETHING INSIDE THE CAPSULE HELD THE KEY.
WE CALLED IT THE MAIDEN CIRCUIT.

IT STORED LORELEI'S MEMORIES AND EMOTIONS. WE MANAGED TO COPY IT AND ADAPT IT FOR USE IN MARIONETTES IN HOPES OF BRINGING WOMEN BACK IN SOME WAY.
ONCE THEY WERE ACTIVATED, WE DISCOVERED THAT THE MAIDEN CIRCUITS BEGAN CHANGING. WE NOW BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE EVOLVING, AND THEIR ULTIMATE STAGE MAY BE LINKED TO UNLOCKING THE CAPSULE.
SO, THE REASON FAUST WANTED THE SABER DOLLS BACK WAS...
YES. TO GET HIS HANDS ON A FULLY DEVELOPED MAIDEN CIRCUIT TO WAKE LORELEI.
BUT WHY? WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT TO HIM?
BECAUSE HE IS IN LOVE WITH HER.
AND SO AM I.

....
THANK GOD.
I'M VERY GLAD TO KNOW...
...THAT OUR SHOGUN IS NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD GIVE UP HIS LOVED ONE SO EASILY!
OTARU...
SHOGUN, YOU HAVEN'T LET ANYONE DOWN.
YOU'RE THINKING OF EVERY-BODY'S WELL BEING.
BUT I--
OTARU!

FAUST-SAMA, HERE IS THE CAPSULE YOU WANTED.
......
UH...
MY MAIDEN CIRCUIT... HURTS.
NNH.
YES...
MINE TOO.
MINE STARTED HURTING AS SOON AS WE ENTERED GARTLAND.

バチッ
BEGIN OPERATIONS!
YES, SIR!!
FAUST-SAMA!
WHAT IS THIS CAP-SULE?!
WHO TOLD YOU TO SPEAK?
I...I'M SORRY.
YOU'RE TRYING MY PATIENCE, GIRL. WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?!

!
YOUR MAIDEN CIRCUIT IS SUFFERING?
UM... YES.
THEN I WILL EASE YOUR PAIN... AFTER YOU COMPLETE YOUR MISSION.
YES, SIR. THANK YOU, SIR!

OUCH.
SIGH...
TIGER AND THE DOLLS REALLY ARE BACK WITH FAUST.
GOD-DAMMIT!
......
!
UH!
MMPH!

UH! OTARU... IT HURTS. IT HURTS!
はぁっ
はぁっ
LIME! CHERRY! BLOODBERRY!!
WHAT'S WRONG?!